APHIS
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Pest Detection and Management Programs

Weekly Notice, May 5, 2003

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/

Emergency Programs

Emerald ash borer - Tree removal activities will begin this week in Michigan at the Tipton site just southwest of the heavily infested core area. This area is predominantly agricultural, with the scattered woodlots.

OMB has apportioned $14.55 million for the Emerald Ash Borer emergency program. This provides funding for 5 months for APHIS, Forest Service and state cooperators.
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Citrus Canker – On Friday, May 2, a Broward County Circuit Court Judge issued the first warrants in this County in over a year allowing State to remove trees infected with or exposed to (within 1900 ft.) citrus canker. Removal of infected and exposed trees is continuing in Palm Beach County, the adjacent county to the North of Broward County. There are currently over 200,000 infected and exposed citrus trees in Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade Counties awaiting removal. APHIS and the State consider the removal of infected and exposed trees an essential component of the eradication program, and one that has been blocked until recently by various legal maneuvers on the part of individuals and communities opposed to the destruction of infected and/or exposed trees. Now that removal can resume in Broward County, it is likely that the project staff will seek warrants to remove infected and exposed trees in Miami-Dade County.
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Domestic Programs

Ralstonia - Detections of *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 at nursery facilities that received suspect geraniums are being confirmed but on a much less frequent basis. As of May 6, there were 27 States with positive confirmations in 127 establishments, excluding the two rooting stations, tallied by state:
AL (9), AR(2), CO(1), DE (1), GA (2), ID(1), IL (4), IN (4), IA (6), KS (3), KY(1), MD (3), ME(1), MI (12), MN (4), MO (6), NH(1), NJ(1), NY(3), NC (13), OH (7), PA (8), SC (8), TN (1), TX (7), VA (10), and WI (7). There are currently 28 nurseries still on hold with control actions having taken place at 134 establishments. Remaining locations with positive testing facilities are making arrangements to destroy plants and disinfect facilities. To date, 891 establishments have been released. The number of samples being sent to the Center for Plant Health Science and Technology Beltsville laboratory for confirmatory testing is decreasing. The Action Plan is being revised based on substantial input from the field. PPQ will be releasing a new version after a program review is completed. An interim update was posted to the PPQ internet site, and provides instructions from the PPQ Permit Unit to the diagnostic screening laboratories for the disposition of *R. solanacearum*race 3 biovar 2 cultures and samples. In mid-June, 2003, two meetings will be convened. The first will be a review of the *R. solanacearum*race 3 biovar 2 eradication program in geraniums. In the second meeting, experts will provide information for PPQ to draft Action Plans that will be called into play in the event R. *solanacearum*race 3 biovar 2 is found in crops such as potatoes.
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Sudden oak death - To date, only one nursery has been detected with *P. ramorum* established in their production plants. In half of the regulated California counties, the wooded areas are moderately to heavily infested. This is in marked contrast to the situation in Europe where the disease has been established in their nurseries since 1993, but has not really made a

stronghold in the surrounding environs or wooded areas. After a cool, wet April, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) reported that three nurseries in two counties have been found infested. Two important details:

1. All the nurseries have infected bay laurels (considered a good source of inoculum) adjacent to the nurseries.
2. The disease was detected on three different kinds of hosts:
    a. On Rhododendron, up to now, the only genus implicated in U.S. nurseries;
    b. *Camellia japonica* (just recognized as a host, in Europe);
    c. *Camellia sasanqua* (previously unreported host).

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Giant hogweed - Art Miller, APHIS Eastern Regional weed program manager attended a meeting this week in Amherst, MA on Giant hogweed. He presented program overview in addition to presenting the regional overview. Massachusetts had requested a meeting regarding the plant, following a recent find of Hogweed in the State. Attendees were from Connecticut, and several other New England States. Jason Fuller, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture State Hogweed Eradication Program, presented information regarding the plant, as well as survey and control techniques.

APHIS has been providing funding for several years for survey in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture State Eradication Program. Funding regarding recent finds in Portland is planned in FY2003 for Oregon. Recent finds in several New England States have lead to a discussion of a Northeastern regional program for survey and eradication. A discussion of the issue was held at the recent Eastern Plant Board meeting in Harrisburg, PA. Several of the Northeastern States will be doing survey in FY2003, with some APHIS funding provided. APHIS will be participating in a similar meeting in Maryland, in May, to provide information on survey and control techniques. Other State meetings may be possible in FY2003 and 2004. Factsheets and a poster have been developed by APHIS.
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